REGIONAL INFORMATION OFFICES

The U.S. Department of Labor operates through 10 regional offices located in major cities across the country. If you want a local angle on a news or feature story provided through this service--or have a direct news inquiry--you may contact one of the offices listed below. This listing includes the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the Public Information Directors and the states in their regions:

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Week of October 18, 1982

BLACK UNEMPLOYMENT REACHES RECORD HIGH

WASHINGTON -- The unemployment rate for black workers reached a record high at 20.2 percent in September, up from the August level of 18.8 percent the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

The jobless rate for black adult men was 19.8 percent in September, it was 17.2 percent in August; for black adult women, the rate was 15.7 percent, compared to 15.1 percent in August. The youth unemployment rate decreased slightly over the month from 51.6 percent to 48.5 percent.

Among white workers, the overall unemployment rate rose 0.4 points to 9.0 percent. The jobless rate for adult males was 8.6 percent, adult women 7.4 percent, and for youth 20.4 percent.

Unemployment in the nation rose to 10.1 percent in September, and the number of jobs in nonagricultural establishments declined, after seasonal adjustment, the BLS reported.

Total employment--as measured by the monthly survey of households--was about unchanged in September at 99.7 million. Nonfarm payroll employment--as measured by the monthly survey of establishments--dropped by 230,000 to 89.0 million. Employment declines continued in the manufacturing sector, and the factory workweek was down four-tenths of an hour.

Unemployment

After seasonal adjustment, unemployment rose by 450,000 in September to 11.3 million, and the overall unemployment rate rose three-tenths of a point to 10.1 percent. Adult men--especially those over 25 years of age--accounted for nearly all of the September increase in unemployment. Their unemployment usually declines at this time of year, but did not do so this September. After seasonal adjustment, the jobless rate for men 20 and over rose to 9.6 percent. Unemployment rates for adult women and teenagers were about unchanged at 8.3 percent and 23.7 percent, respectively.

Joblessness among blue-collar workers was up 1.4 points to 15.6 percent, while unemployment among white-collar (4.8 percent) and service workers (10.7 percent) was unchanged over the month. Among the major industry groups, unemployment rates for construction and manufacturing workers rose to 22.6 percent and 13.8 percent, respectively.

The number of unemployed persons seeking work for 15 weeks or longer was up in September, with the increase concentrated among those out of work for more than 6 months. Both the mean and median duration of unemployment rose, the mean to 16.6 weeks and the median to 9.5 weeks.

In addition to the increase in joblessness in September, there was also a large increase after seasonal adjustment in the number of nonagricultural workers on part-time schedules for economic reasons; their number was up 950,000 over the month to a record 6.6 million. These are workers whose hours were cut back or could only find part-time jobs.

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The Labor Force and Total Employment

The civilian labor force grew by 340,000 in September to 111.0 million, seasonally adjusted. Virtually all of this increase took place among adult men. Adult women, however, have accounted for the largest share of the 2.3 million increase in the labor force over the past year--1.7 million. Over this same period, the number of adult men in the labor force has increased by more than 900,000, while the number of teenagers has dropped by over 300,000.

Employment was about unchanged in September at 99.7 million, seasonally adjusted. Since the pre-recession peak in July 1981, total employment has dropped by 1.1 million, with adult men accounting for virtually the entire decline. The proportion of the population employed, at 57.0 percent in September, has declined by 1.5 percentage points over the same period.

Discouraged Workers

The number of discouraged workers (persons who report that they want to work but are not looking for jobs because they believe they could not find any) rose for the fifth consecutive quarter, reaching 1.6 million in the third quarter of 1982. All of the third quarter increase (120,000) was among women. Three-fourths of all discouraged workers were not seeking work because of job-market factors.

Industry Payroll Employment

Nonagricultural payroll employment, at 89.0 million in September, was down 230,000 over the month after seasonal adjustment and has fallen by nearly 2.4 million since July 1981. Over-the-month reductions were concentrated in the durable goods manufacturing industries, which lost 80,000 jobs; retail trade, down 45,000; and State and local government, which declined by 90,000.

Among the durable goods industries, transportation equipment employment decreased for the second month in a row, dropping by 30,000 in September and 70,000 since August. Machinery also continued to decline, losing an additional 20,000 jobs over the month, while primary and fabricated metals jobs were down by smaller margins. There was little movement among the individual nondurable goods industries. Overall, manufacturing employment was down by 85,000 over the month and has declined by 1.8 million since July 1981. Employment was about unchanged over the month in mining and construction.

Employment in the service-producing sector, which had shown some strength early in the recession, declined by 140,000 in September and was down more than 400,000 from last May. The over-the-month drop was due entirely to the job losses in trade and State and local government. Most of the seasonally adjusted decline in State and local government resulted from the fact that September hiring in schools was less than usual for this time of year, as school systems continued to adjust to smaller enrollments and tighter budgets; a small part of the decline was due to teacher strikes.

Hours of Work

The average workweek of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls was 34.8 hours in September, seasonally adjusted, about the level that has generally prevailed since last September. The factory workweek, however, fell 0.4 hour over the month to 38.6 hours, which was below the 1973-75 recession low. Factory overtime was down 0.1 hour to 2.3 hours in September.

The index of aggregate weekly hours of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls declined 0.3 percent in September to 103.8 (1977=100). The manufacturing index was down 1.4 percent over the month to 85.2 and has fallen more than 12 percent over the past year.

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-- The all-important PICs will be appointed by the chief elected official in the Service Delivery Area. The majority of the membership (no limit to size) must be from general purpose business organizations, and from educational agencies, state and local labor organizations, state employment security agencies, and economic development agencies. The chairman must be from the private sector.

-- Under Title II, a wide range of training activities to prepare economically disadvantaged youth and adults for unsubsidized employment will be available through the PICs in each Service Delivery Area.

-- The Governors will provide older worker employment services with three percent of the funds allocated to the states earmarked for that purpose.

-- At least 40 percent of the Title II Funds must be used for disadvantaged youth between 16 through 21 years of age.

-- Ninety percent of Title II participants in each service delivery area must be economically disadvantaged. The other 10 percent may be persons with other labor market disadvantages such as handicapped individuals, offenders, displaced homemakers, older workers, and teenage parents.

-- Title III will provide services to dislocated workers--workers who have lost their jobs permanently because of plant closings and have little prospect of another job in that industry.

-- Services will be provided under Title III for job search assistance, retraining, pre-layoff assistance, and relocation expenses.

-- The Job Corps under Title IV will continue its successful approach to in-residence training programs with food, clothing, shelter, health services, and recreation as a part of the education and job training provided each recruit.

-- Native Americans and migrant and seasonal farmworkers programs, also under Title IV, will continue under the new Act much as in the same manner as conducted under CETA.

-- Title IV also establishes a special employment and training program for service-connected disabled veterans, veterans of the Vietnam era, and veterans recently separated from military service. The funds for this will come from 5 percent of all Title IV funds (minus Job Corps).

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Week of October 18, 1982

FILLERS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration develops workplace safety and health regulations on its own initiative, or on petitions from other parties, including state and local governments, any nationally-recognized standards-producing organization, employer or labor representatives, or any other interested person, according to the revised Labor Department publication "All About OSHA."

# # #

An occupational injury is an injury such as a cut, fracture, sprain or amputation which results from a work-related accident or from exposure involving a single incident in the work environment, according to the U.S. Labor Department's revised publication "All About OSHA."

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An occupational illness is any abnormal condition or disorder, other than one resulting from an occupational injury, caused by exposure to environmental factors associated with employment, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's revised publication "All About OSHA."

# # #

An occupational illness--any abnormal condition or disorder other than one resulting from an occupational injury--includes acute and chronic illnesses which may be caused by inhalation, absorption, ingestion or direct contact with toxic substances or harmful agents, according to the U.S. Labor Department's revised publication "All About OSHA."

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In the inorganic division, two branches conduct both quantitative and qualitative analyses of samples from OSHA inspectors; another branch works to develop methods and procedures for analyses of all industrial hygiene inorganic samples; and the fourth deals with microscopy for dust counting such as with asbestos and other particulate matter.

Organic analyses are handled by one branch for solvents; another for carcinogens and/or pesticides; while the third develops and evaluates methods and procedures for analyzing organic samples.

The quality control division monitors all laboratory analytical procedures to ensure that the results are accurate. About 10 percent of all the samples run are checked for quality control, with each chemist receiving quality control samples in each batch of field samples. About 10 percent of all field samples are run a second time for quality control check.

The laboratory itself comes under the Directorate of Technical Support in OSHA's Washington headquarters. A sister laboratory in Cincinnati is responsible for the development, evaluation, calibration and repair of hazard measuring instruments and equipment.

Acetone, lead, isocyanates, silica, toluene, malathion, benzene -- these are but few of the other hazardous substances the Salt Lake City laboratory must confront in the nearly 1,000 it receives every week of the year from OSHA field offices.

But Madsen says the laboratory will continue to give everyone in OSHA "something they can be proud of as well as results they can depend upon."

In other words, OSHA's Cinderella has now come of age.

# # #

Week of October 18, 1982

FACTS ABOUT THE JOB TRAINING
PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 1982

(Another in a series on laws and programs administered by the U.S. Labor Department protecting workers.)

WASHINGTON -- The new Job Training Partnership Act of 1982 will replace CETA (the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act) completely by Oct. 1, 1983.

Here are some other basic facts about this new law:

-- State governments will replace the Federal Department of Labor in planning programs and distributing funds.

-- Federal funds will go directly to state governors who will channel the funds to the "Service Delivery Areas" in their jurisdictions, mostly large cities, counties, and consortia of the same working under the aegis of Private Industry Councils (PICs).

-- A total of $3.5 million in transition funds has already been made available to the states to phase down CETA in this fiscal year (1983).

-- PICs in the big city and county areas will plan the programs of training with the state planning committee, making certain that training is directed toward an available job in a vibrant local industry.

-- The number of PICs (to act as the former CETA prime sponsors) conducting training programs under the new Act calls for Service Delivery Areas with populations of 200,000 or more instead of the present 100,000 under CETA.

-- The governors of each state will be responsible for the training programs in their states ... in partnership with local PICs. PICs will be the key operators in localities rather than local governments.

-- Programs of training will be conducted in classrooms or on the premises of businesses and factories.

-- Training programs will be highly focused and tightly drawn to keep at least 70 cents of each dollar for actual training ... instead of 20 cents that was the total under CETA.

-- Such concentration will mean at least a million trainees a year when the new Act is in full swing ... providing more money than ever before for actual training.

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Week of October 18, 1982

ARKANSAS EXTENDS JOBLESS PAY BENEFITS

WASHINGTON -- Eligible jobless workers in Arkansas became eligible to receive up to 13 additional weeks of unemployment insurance (UI) benefits as of Oct. 3, the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration announced.

Workers who have exhausted their regular state benefits of up to 26 weeks are eligible for the extended benefits.

EB went into effect in Arkansas because the average statewide 13-week insured unemployment rate (IUR) exceeded 4 percent for the week ending September 18, and that rate--at 4.96 percent--was also 20 percent higher than it averaged during the corresponding 13-week period in the preceding two years. (The IUR is based on the number of persons covered by UI who are currently claiming regular state unemployment benefits.)

The last time EB were paid in Arkansas was for the week ending July 3. Once EB triggers on, the program must remain in effect for at least 13 weeks.

Since Arkansas also currently pays eligible jobless workers up to 10 weeks of Federal Supplemental Compensation (FSC) benefits, a claimant in the state may be able to collect up to 49 weeks of UI benefits (26 regular, 13 EB, 10 FSC.)

The FSC program operates nationwide, although depending on IUR rates, states pay 10, 8, or 6 additional weeks of benefits. As of October 3, the EB program is operating in just 23 states (plus Puerto Rico):

Alaska	Kansas	New Mexico	South Carolina
Arizona	Louisiana	North Carolina	Utah
Arkansas	Michigan	Ohio	Washington
California	Mississippi	Oregon	West Virginia
Idaho	Montana	Pennsylvania	Wisconsin
Illinois	Nevada	Rhode Island	

Unemployment compensation is administered by the Unemployment Insurance Service in the Department's Employment and Training Administration.

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Week of October 18, 1982

OSHA'S ANALYTICAL LABORATORY -- SHADES OF CINDERELLA

WASHINGTON -- Though no fairy godmother was involved, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's analytical laboratory in Salt Lake City has a Cinderella-like history.

In 1974 when OSHA assumed full responsibility over the laboratory, it was housed in a remodeled grocery store, had 13 staffers with only three pieces of equipment, and, perhaps worst of all, was almost unknown, even among those who worked for the same agency.

At that time the small staff had to deal with samples which could have come from almost any of about 4 million workplaces in private industry in America. Now, the laboratory receives nearly 1,000 samples a week from OSHA field offices.

The laboratory today as then protects workers by analyzing workplace samples submitted to it by OSHA health inspectors, who, using the laboratory's results, then enforce the agency regulations prohibiting the overexposure of employees to hundreds of toxic substances.

This means, for example, that if OSHA has inspected a site the worker there can usually find out in less than 10 days from the Salt Lake City laboratory if he is being exposed to any toxic substances OSHA regulates.

Today the laboratory has a highly trained staff of 73 scientists and technicians using sophisticated apparatus and the latest techniques to analyze a constant stream of samples submitted to it. It now is considered to be the best in its field in terms of personnel and equipment.

In its latest reaccreditation review of the OSHA facility, the American Industrial Hygiene Association's laboratory accreditation committee labelled it one of the nation's "Flagship Labs," with "excellent facilities" and had no reservations about recommending reaccreditation.

Floyd A. Madsen, director of the OSHA laboratory who says with full confidence that it is "one of the best in the industrial hygiene field," attributes the growth to the increased awareness of the health hazards in industry and OSHA's efforts to protect workers against them. Madsen has been with the laboratory from its very beginning.

During the coming 1983 fiscal year, even further improvements are foreseen when the laboratory's various activities will be housed in one building rather than two as they are now.

In 1971 when the first samples were received in Salt Lake City from OSHA's various field offices for analysis, the laboratory was run by OSHA's sister agency, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) under an interagency agreement. OSHA took over in 1974 when NIOSH's analytical chemistry function was terminated.

The laboratory is organized into three main divisions -- one for inorganic analyses, another for organic analyses, and the third for quality control. These divisions again are divided into branches according to functions.

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Old wording was: "Occupational Safety and Health (Compliance Officers) (Executive Officials) are authorized to carry out any special duties assigned by the Secretary of Labor and to enter without delay, inspect and investigate during working hours and at other reasonable times any factory, plant, establishment construction site or other area, workplace or environment where work is performed including all pertinent conditions, structures, machines, apparatus, devices, equipment and materials therein and to question privately any such employer, owner, operator, agent or employee."

# # #

Week of October 18, 1982

EXTENDED JOBLESS PAY BENEFITS
END IN IOWA AND TENNESSEE

WASHINGTON -- The 13 additional weeks of unemployment insurance (UI) benefits being paid eligible jobless workers in Iowa ended Oct. 2, and in Tennessee Sept. 26, the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration announced.

The extended benefits (EB) program triggered off in Iowa because the average statewide insured unemployment rate (IUR) for the 13-week period ending Sept. 11 was less than 4 percent. (The IUR is based on the number of persons covered by UI who are currently claiming regular state benefits.)

Iowa had been paying EB since Feb. 14, 1982. Jobless workers who had exhausted their regular benefits of up to 26 weeks were eligible for the additional weeks of payments.

The extended benefits (EB) program triggered off in Tennessee because the average insured unemployment rate (IUR) for the 13-week period ending Sept. 4 was less than 20 percent higher than the average of such rates for the corresponding 13-week periods in the two preceding years. (The IUR is based on the number of persons covered by UI who are currently claiming regular state unemployment benefits.)

Tennessee had been paying extended benefits since Jan. 24, 1982. Jobless workers who had exhausted their regular state benefits of up to 26 weeks has been eligible for the additional weeks of payments.

Unemployment compensation is administered by the Unemployment Insurance Service of the Department's Employment and Training Administration.

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Primary responsibility is given to agency program and office directors and OSHA regional administrators.

The fourteen objectives are as follows:

I. Management

* To deliver the full range of OSHA's safety and health services and information.
* To improve the use of data to help manage the agency and support its balanced approach to safety and health.
* To begin to implement the Integrated Management Information System (data base which includes both state and federal inspection data) to improve the overall operations of OSHA.
* To ensure that all OSHA personnel have the essential awareness, knowledge and abilities required to effectively perform their duties.
* To exercise general management functions and tasks at all managerial levels to link planning, execution and evaluation of all efforts to OSHA's mission, to establish accountability and to communicate essential policy and program information in a timely way to all OSHA employees.

II. Employer/Employee Assistance

* To improve the OSHA-funded on-site consultation services.
* To expand the employer/employee assistance program with particular emphasis on the needs of new workers.
* To promote participation in voluntary protection programs.

III. State Programs

* To revise the system of monitoring states' performance.
* To begin resolving the issue of states issuing standards different than federal ones.
* To grant final approval to fully effective state programs.

IV. Compliance

* To refine and expand the use of targeting mechanisms to improve effective use of field resources.

V. Federal Agencies

* To develop and implement a program of OSHA assistance which will assure a safe and healthful workplace for federal employees.

VI. Standards

* To develop improved standards to reduce injuries and illnesses in the workplace.

Copies of the agency's objectives are available from the OSHA Office of Information and Consumer Affairs, Room N-3637, Frances Perkins Building, Third St. and Constitution Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20210, telephone (202) 523-8151. The agency is mailing a list of the objectives directly to interested parties.

# # #

Week of October 18, 1982

OSHA INSPECTORS' CREDENTIALS REVISED

WASHINGTON -- The Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) announced that it is issuing new wording on the credentials provided to its inspectors to better explain the agency's mission and emphasize its nonadversarial approach to occupational safety and health.

"The new credentials state specifically that the OSHA visit is to help the employer and employees find and eliminate workplace hazards," Assistant Secretary Thorne G. Auchter said in announcing the changes. "We want to make it clear from the moment we set foot in a workplace and introduce ourselves that our purpose is to work with the people there to prevent injuries and illnesses," he said.

"We also want employers and employees to be aware of other OSHA programs beyond our enforcement efforts such as our free on-site consultation program and Star, Praise and Try--the voluntary protection plans that recognize effective safety and health programs already in place at the worksite," Auchter said. "And the inspector's identification further solicits employer and employee suggestions for ways we can work more effectively with them," he said.

Under Auchter's guidance, the agency has implemented a balanced mix of programs focusing on cooperation with employers and employees to achieve its goal of reducing injuries and illnesses in the workplace. Revising inspector credentials to more accurately reflect the agency's purpose in conducting inspections is another step in this direction.

The language used in previous versions of the credentials focussed exclusively on the inspector's authorization "to enter without delay, inspect and investigate . . . " workplaces for safety and health conditions. Following a Supreme Court decision in April 1978 (Marshall v. Barlow's, Inc.) which held that employers could refuse entry to OSHA inspectors unless they had warrants, OSHA discontinued using that portion of the credentials.

All inspectors carry the credentials and present them upon entering the worksite. Employers may use the information on the identity portion of the credentials to verify that the person is authentic and not a bogus inspector--a problem that has occasionally surfaced in some parts of the country. The new credentials are being issued to inspectors over the next several weeks.

The text of the new wording on the OSHA inspectors' credentials follows:

"The bearer of this credential is a duly authorized representative of the U.S. Secretary of Labor entrusted with the responsibility of carrying out in a courteous and professional manner inspections under Section 8 and certain other provisions of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970.

"The central purposes of the visit are to assure compliance and to assist employers and employees in finding and reducing or eliminating hazards in the workplace that threaten safety or health.

"A related purpose of the visit is to describe the many programs available from a variety of sources to assist you in carrying out an effective safety and health program. Your comments and suggestions on how we might be more effective in assisting employers and employees are welcomed."

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Week of October 18, 1982

MAINE JOB CORPS CONTRACT RENEWED FOR $5.9 MILLION

WASHINGTON -- Secretary of Labor Raymond J. Donovan announced the renewal of a $5.9 million two-year contract for the operation of the Penebscot Job Corps Center in Bangor, Maine.

The two-year contract, which totals $5,907,350, was awarded to TDC of Bangor, Maine on a competitive basis and runs from Oct. 1, 1982 to Sept. 30, 1984.

The Bangor Center provides training for economically disadvantaged youth, 16 through 21 years of age, in a residential setting. The center is coed with a 385-person capacity, serving approximately 770 participants a year.

Job training at the center includes clerical trades, computer equipment operator, health occupations, heating and air conditioning mechanic, and heavy equipment mechanic.

The center also provides trainees with basic education, social skills, counseling, medical and dental care, and other support services. They can stay in the Job Corps for as long as two years.

There are currently 107 Job Corps Centers in 43 states and Puerto Rico, with a national enrollment of about 38,000.

The network of Job Corps Centers is administered by the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration.

# # #

Week of October 18, 1982

OSHA ANNOUNCES OBJECTIVES FOR FISCAL YEAR 1983

WASHINGTON -- During Fiscal Year 1983 the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) will be seeking to improve workplace safety and health by concentrating on efforts to safeguard federal employees, employer and employee assistance, agency management, strong state-operated OSHA programs, improved safety and health standards, and compliance, the Labor Department announced.

"Our overall agency goal is to provide leadership and assistance for the improvement of workplace safety and health conditions through a comprehensive program of government and private sector activities which affords full and balanced use of the authority vested in OSHA by the Congress," said Thorne G. Auchter, assistant secretary of labor for occupational safety and health. "That's a very broad goal, however, and the only way we can hope to achieve it is by breaking it down into more concrete objectives--subgoals that the agency intends to reach in 1983," he said.

"We've emphasized accountability in OSHA--accountability to the President, the Congress, the taxpayer, and labor and management," Auchter noted. "By setting specific objectives outlining the steps required to achieve them, and providing guidelines for measuring achievement, we pull together the information our personnel need to reach those objectives," he added.

"Once we've clearly communicated these, every OSHA staff member will be assigned tasks and assume individual responsibility for his or her part in achieving the objectives," Auchter said.

The fourteen objectives for the coming fiscal year were developed by an internal executive task force based on the assistant secretary's annual guidance for Fiscal Year 1983 and input from senior OSHA managers. They fall into six major categories: management, employer/employee assistance, state programs, compliance, federal agency programs, and standards. Each objective includes a clear statement of intent, a list of ways to reach the objective and a description of results achieved. In addition, a specific organizational unit is assigned primary responsibility for achieving the objective; support responsibility may also be assigned.

For example, one objective is to ensure that all OSHA personnel have the essential awareness, knowledge and abilities required to effectively perform their duties. That objective involves communicating policies to the staff, identifying competencies, updating job descriptions and emphasizing career development. Indications that the agency has achieved the objective are evidence that OSHA employees understand policy, effective implementation of new initiatives, reduced complaints about competency of OSHA personnel and increased prestige for the OSHA Training Institute.

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Week of October 18, 1982

WHITNEY YOUNG JOB CORPS CONTRACT
RENEWED FOR $6.8 MILLION

WASHINGTON -- Secretary of Labor Raymond J. Donovan announced the renewal of a $6.8 million two-year contract for the operation of the Whitney Young Job Corps Center in Simpsonville, Ky.

The two-year contract, which totals $6,836,479, was awarded to Res-Care, Inc., of Louisville, Ky., on a competitive basis and runs from Oct. 1, 1982, to Sept. 30, 1984.

The Simpsonville Center provides training for economically disadvantaged youth, 16 through 21 years of age, in a residential setting. The center is coed with a 400-person capacity, serving approximately 800 participants a year.

Job training at the center includes air conditioning and refrigeration, automative trades, bricklaying, stone masonry, building maintenance, carpentry, cooking and welding.

The center also provides trainees with basic education, social skills, counseling, medical and dental care, and other support services. They can stay in the Job Corps for as long as two years.

Res-Care operates three other Job Corps Centers--in Atterburg, Ind., Joliet, Ill., and the Crystal Springs Center in Gulfport, Miss.

There are currently 107 Job Corps Centers in 43 states and Puerto Rico with a national enrollment of about 38,000.

The network of Job Corps Centers is administered by the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration.

# # #

Week of October 18, 1982

SINGER COMPANY TRAINS, HIRES
JOB CORPS GRADUATES

SAN JOSE -- Job Corps works and so does its graduates, many of them for the Singer Company.

Singer, the operator of 12 Job Corps centers across the country under contract with the U.S. Department of Labor, during the past two years has hired 276 Job Corps graduates.

As Joseph B. Flavin, Singer chairman and chief executie officer, explains, "Having prepared so many corpsmembers for the world of work, it is altogether fitting that we demonstrate confidence in the entire program through affirmative action efforts to hire them."

To carry out that commitment, the company joined with the Labor Department to develop an Industry Work Experience Program. This led to cooperative placement efforts with personnel departments of the company's various divisions, including personnel offices at compnay-operated Job Corps centers.

In San Jose, Singer Link, a manufacturer of flight simulation equipment for training pilots, has hired six San Jose Job Corps Center graduates for jobs that pay starting wages from $5 to $6.50 an hour. The San Jose Center has hired 10 former corpsmembers as part of its local program staff.

Alice Murillo is one of them. She joined Job Corps in 1979 and, after completing her training, was hired in 1981 as a clerk typist in the center's academic department. It's her first full-time job, and she says she has learned a great deal.

Under the Industry Work Experience Program (IWEP), former corpsmembers go through the same application and interview processes as any other job applicant.

Kim Page, the San Jose Center's placement supervisor, says the program pays two benefits. In hiring Job Corps graduates, the Singer Company is getting "motivated, mature individuals with good work habits." At the same time, the program gives "inexperienced youth entry-level positions to help them get started in careers," she says.

Corpsmembers hired by Singer through the IWEP receive about $600 in relocation funds from the Labor Department, and assistance in arranging housing and transportation.

During the first six weeks of employment with Singer, the corpsmembers remain in Job Corps. This enables the program staff to continue counseling the students during the sometimes difficult transition to the world of work. In extreme cases, students can be taken out of the IWEP during those first weeks if they are found to need additional training in order to hold their jobs.

Employers interested in establishing their own IWEP program with Job Corps can obtain more information from their nearest regional Job Corps office. The office is listed in the telephone directory under U.S. Government, U.S. Department of Labor.

* * *

Hourly and Weekly Earnings

Average hourly and weekly earnings both fell 0.1 percent in September, after seasonal adjustment. Before adjustment for seasonality, average hourly earnings were up 7 cents to $7.76, 36 cents above the year-earlier level. Average weekly earnings, at $270.09, were down 64 cents over the month but rose by $10.31 over the year.

The Hourly Earnings Index

The Hourly Earnings Index (HEI) was 149.9 (1977=100) in September, seasonally adjusted, 0.1 percent higher than in August. For the 12 months ended in September, the increase (before seasonal adjustment) was 6.0 percent. The HEI excludes the effects of two types of changes unrelated to underlying wage rate movements--fluctuations in overtime in manufacturing and interindustry employment shifts. In dollars of constant purchasing power, the HEI increased 0.8 percent during the 12-month period ended in August.

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Week of October 18, 1982

HOWARD JOHNSON CO. ORDERED TO PAY WORKERS
OVER $5 MILLION IN BACK WAGES

WASHINGTON -- Secretary of Labor Raymond J. Donovan announced that the Howard Johnson Co., doing business as Howard Johnson's and Ground Round Restaurants, has agreed to pay over $5 million in back wages to more than 5,000 employees in approximately 900 locations nationwide under a consent judgment issued Sept. 23 by the U.S. District Court of Massachusetts.

The judgment resolves a suit filed by the U.S. Department of Labor against the firm. This is one of the largest settlements of its kind under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), also known as the Federal Wage-Hour Law.

The suit, filed in July 1980, charged the Howard Johnson Co. with violating FLSA's overtime pay provisions. The law, enforced by the Department's Employment Standards Administration (ESA), generally requires overtime pay for hours worked over 40 in any workweek. It also requires covered employers to pay minimum wages and to keep adequate time and payroll records.

The $5 million in back pay is due manager trainees, assistant managers earning under $250 per week, and hourly paid assistant managers and manager trainees, all of whom worked for the firm between August 1977 and March 1982.

The consent judgment, signed Sept. 23 by Judge Walter Jay Skinner, prohibits the Howard Johnson Co. from further overtime and recordkeeping violations. It also orders the company to pay the Labor Department's cost in pursuing the case.

This case was investigated by the Boston Office of ESA Wage-Hour division and the suit was filed by the Regional Solicitor's Office. Any individuals previously employed with Howard Johnson's or Ground Round Restaurants as manager-trainees or assistant managers who believe they may be entitled to back wages under this consent decree should contact either of the above-mentioned offices of the Labor Department, located in the Kennedy Federal Building, Boston, Mass.

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